

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02463 01 OF 02 271322Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 DHA-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 /090 W

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R 271145Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 909

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 2463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: DISUCSSION WITH FEDERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN INDRA

SUMMARY: DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON HIM AUGUST 25,
FEDERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALOIS INDRA -- CZCP PRESI-
DIUM MEMBER AND ONE OF MOSCOW'S MOST FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS --
WAS SUPRISINGLY CORDIAL, THROUGH NOT ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING
SUBSTANTIVELY, IN DISCUSSING A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS. WE MET
FOR 55 MINUTES IN REVIEW OF: EFFORTS TO IMPROVE US-GOC RELATIONS;
ANTICIPATED OUTCOME OF CZECHOSLOVAK PARLIAMENTARY AND US
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; MOVES TO REHABILITATE FORMER COMMUNIST
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02463 01 OF 02 271322Z

PARTY MEMBERS OF THE DUBCEK PERIOD; IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE FINAL ACT;

AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BERLIN ECPC. END SUMMARY.

1. US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS. INDRA EXTENDED A NOTABLE WARM WELCOME TO ME ON BEHALF OF ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES AND REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT GOC LEADERS SHOULD SUPPORT

EFFORTS ON MY PART TO IMPROVE BILATERAL TIES. HE RECALLED PROGRESS IN US-GOC RELATIONS DURING 1972-73, AND REGRETTED "THE INTERVENTION OF OUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS" IN BLOCKING SETTLEMENT OF THE LONG

STANDING CLAIMS/GOLD ISSUE.; HE STRESSED NEED FOR RESPECTING "EQUALITY" IN OUR RELATIONS AND HOPED THERE COULD BE RENEWED PROGRESS TOWARD MORE NORMAL TIES AFOIR THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. I NOTED THAT AS FEDERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, HE ABOVE ALL SHOULD APPRECIATE THE DESIRE OF OUR "PARLIAMENT" TO REVIEW MATTERS OF INTEREST TO IT. I POINTED OUT THAT US SENATORS ALSO SAW NEED FOR APPLYING CONCEPT OF "EQUALITY" AND EQUITY IN SETTTLING CLAIMS OF US CITIZENS. AS FOR TIMING OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, I SAW NO NEED TO DEFER SUCH EFFORTS UNTIL AFTER US ELECTIONS.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. TURNING TO OCTOBER FEDERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HERE, I ASKED WHETHER INDRA FORESAW ANY CHANGE IN RELATIVE PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH OF ZECHS AND SLOVAKS. HE REPLIED WITH LENGTHY DISCOURSE ON PROBLEMS, LARGELY RESOLVED BY NOW, OF IMPLEMENTING NEW "FEDERAL SYSTEM" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 1969. HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SLIGHT CHANGE IN CZECH-SLOVAK LINE-UP IN THE CHAMBER OF PEOPLE -- WHICH GENERALLY MIRRORS THE ETHNIC MAKEUP OF THE COUNTRY -- -BUT THERE COULD BE NONE IN THE CHAMBER OF NATIONS, WITH ITS CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT OF 75 CZECHS AND 75 SLOVAK DEPUTIES.

3. US ELECTIONS. INDRA PRESSED FOR MY ASSESSMENT OF US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. NOTING POLLS PRESENTLY FAVOR GOVERNOR CARTER BY CONSIDERABLE MARGINALITY.

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 02463 01 OF 02 271322Z

GIN, I THOUGHT THAT MARGIN WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED AS THE CAMPAIGN WEARS ON. ONE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT RESULTS MIGHT BE OF TELEVISED DEBATE BETWEEN

THE PRESIDENT AND MR. CARTER, BUT THIS FACTOR AND MANY OTHERS WOULD INEVITABLY WEIGH IN THE FINAL RESULT. THUS, I SAW TOO MANY QUESTION MARKS IN THE PICTURE TO PREDICT ACCURATELY THE NOVEMBER 2 OUT-

COME. INDRA OBSERVED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS BELIEGED GOV. CARTER HAD EFFECTIVELY UNITED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

4. "DIFFERENTIATION" IN REHABILITATING FORMER PARTY MEMBERS. I ASKED INDRA'S EVALUATION OF PROSPECTS FOR BRINGING EX-COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS BACK INTO THE FOLD, UNDER WHAT GENERAL SECRETARY HUSAK HAS CALLED A POLICY OF "DIFFERENTIATION" -- TO REHABILITATE THOSE WHO MERELY DROPPED OUT OF THE PARTY BUT EXCLUDE DUBCEK-ERA MILITANTS WHO WERE FORCIBLY EXPELLED. INDRA PLAYED DOWN THIS ISSUE, ARGUING THAT DIFFERENTIATION WAS "PROCEEDING NORMALLY" AND HAD ACTUALLY BEGUN AS EARLY AS 1969. HE SAID, INTERESTINGLY, THE "LOCAL DISTRICT ORGANS OF THE PARTY" WERE CURRENTLY WORKING ON APPLICATIONS FOR

READMISSION. EACH APPLICATION WAS BEING REVIEWED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, AND REQUESTS OF FORMER MEMBERS NOT FORCIBLY EXPELLED AFTER 1968 WERE BEING ACCORDED SAFE CONSIDERATION GIVEN THOSE APPLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME. INDRA STATED THAT ONLY CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROCESS BY RECENT 15TH PARTY CONGRESS WAS TO HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO IT EXPLICITLY.

5. CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. I ASKED INDRA HOW HE WOULD EVALUATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT. TRYING TO PUT THE BEST FACE HE COULD ON CZECHOSLOVAK PERFORMANCE, INDRA CLAIMED GOC HAD CONSISTENTLY PARTICIPATED VERY ACTIVELY IN CSCE MATTERS AND HAD BEGUN IMPLEMENTATION "IN VERY SERIOUS MANNER." GOC CONSIDERED IT A DUTY TO INFORM CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENRY OF HELSINKI RESULTS AND, TO THAT END, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 PRAGUE 02463 01 OF 02 271322Z

HAD DISTRIBUTED "2.5 MILLION COPIES" OF THE FINAL ACT. PRESIDENT HUSAK AND PREMIER STROUGAL HAD MANY TIMES SPOKEN OF PRAGUE'S READINESS TO IMPLEMENT "ALL THE FINAL ACT, NOT JUST PARTS OF IT," IN RESPECTING RESULTS OF WORLD WAR II, PROMOTING ECONOMIC EXCHANGES, AND IMPLEMENTING BASKET 3 PROVISIONS. CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD REPORT "SOME RESULTS" ALREADY AND EXPECTED TO GIVE A FAVORABLE ACCOUNT OF ITS OVERALL PERFORMANCE AT BELGRADE IN 1977. INDRA NOTED THREE WAYS IN WHICH FEDERAL ASSEMBLY WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CSCE MATTERS: (1) FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES OF BOTH CHAMBERS WERE WORKING ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION; (2) INDIVIDUAL DEPUTIES HAD DEVELOPED BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH MANY OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES; AND (3) DEPUTIES PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN INTER-

PARLIAMENTARY UNION, STEADFASTLY ADVANCING GOC EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE DETENTE.

6. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INDRA'S EXPOSITION, BUT
ASKED HOW HE COULD EXPLAIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S ATTITUDE
TOWARD REUNIFICATION OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. I RECALLED
HAVING TOLD PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL THAT NO PROGRESS
WAS BEING MADE ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH COMMANDED GREAT
INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES. WITH A SIGH, INDRA
OFFERED "PERSONAL OPINION" THAT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED
WERE NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA DN SOLUTIONS
COULD BE INFLUENCED BY IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS
BUT THE PROBLEM AFS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT MANY
CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD DEPARTED ILLEGALLY, THEN SOUGHT TO
REUNITE THEIR FAMILIES. NOT ALL RELATIVES REALLY WANT
TO LEAVE. IN ANY CASE, THOSE WHO DO WERE NOT VERY
NUMEROUS. HE POINTED TO GOC SETTLEMENT OF MANY REQUESTS
FOR DEPARTURE ON CONSULAR LISTS PRESENTED DURING
BYRNE

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02463 02 OF 02 271310Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

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R 271145Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 2463

SECRETARY ROGERS' VISIT TO PRAGUE IN 1973 -- THEREBY
AGAIN ALLUDING TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S READINESS TO SETTLE
SUCH MATTERS WHEN BILATERAL TIES ARE REASONABLY
SATISFACTORY.

7. BERLIN ECPC. AS A FINAL QUESTION, I ASKED
INDRA'S EVALUATION OF BERLIN ECPC RESULTS. HE
REPLIED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA JUDGED THE RESULTS
"VERY FAVORABLY." THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES
HAD MET, GIVEN RENEWED SUPPORT TO DETENTE JDD TO
THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND CARRIED FORWARD "THEIR
FIGHT FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS." HE MENTIONED WESTERN
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02463 02 OF 02 271310Z

PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT RM PHASIS ON INDEPENDENCE
BY ITALIAN AND FRENCH PARTIES AND WHETHER MOSCOW
MIGHT CREATE A NEW "LEADING CENTER." SUCH SPECULA-
TION "DID NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY," HE SAID,
AS ZRTING THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA CLAIMS THE RIGHT TO
DETERMINE ITS OWN POLICIES. ASKED IF INTRA-
COMMUNIST WORLD DIFFERENCES WOULD INCREASE OR DIE
OUT, INDRA STATED "YOU MUST EXCUSE ME... THAT IS A
PRIVATE MATTER FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTIES." HE
REGARDED AS NORMAL THE DIFFERENCES AMONG NON-COM-
MUNIST POLITICAL PARTIES--CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS,
SOCIAL DEMOCRATES, ETC. -- BUT THOUGHT JOURNALISTS
WERE UNDULY DRAMATIZING DIFFERENCES AMONG COMMUNISTS.

8. I COMPLIMENTED INDRA ON HIS TRULY IMPRESSIVE OFFICE AND AS
A PARTING FRIENDLY GESTURE,
HE INVITED ME TO TOUR THE MODERN FEDERAL ASSEMBLY FACILITIES,
OPENED IN 1973. IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD DO
SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
BYRNE

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